

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation
Washington, DC 20505

DCI/ICS-83-4599
26 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

D Director, Intelligence Community Staff *ELP*

SUBJECT: 27 July 1983 CCCT Meeting to Establish Administration
Position on Procurement of an Additional LANDSAT

REFERENCE: Memo to D/ICS, Subject: Interagency Board on Civil
Operational Earth-observing Satellite Systems (IB-COESS)
Meeting, 15 July 1983 [redacted] 18 July 1983

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Tab B 1. The 27 July CCCT meeting, I believe, will be an effort by Secretary of Commerce to get full and orchestrated Administration support to end US Government sponsorship of the LANDSAT program when the last vehicle, now on-the-shelf, is launched and dies. The meeting (~~an early version of~~ the issue paper is ~~attached~~) specifically will address whether or not the Administration will support or oppose a funding request to Congress to procure an additional LANDSAT to cover the period of mid-1987 (when the last existing vehicle should die) until a hoped for purchaser of the United States' earth sensing satellite system launches the corporate LANDSAT replacement, probably not earlier than late 1988.

2. Commerce phrases the question as: "Is a \$300 million procurement effort needed to fill an eighteen month gap between the death of the last existing LANDSAT and the launch of a corporate replacement?"

3. For this view to be valid one must assume (as Commerce does) that some corporation will take over the earth sensing program on Commerce's schedule in the 2nd quarter of 1984. This assumption is at least questionable because LANDSAT will cost about \$300 million and produce an annual income of about \$10 million--when it works. The purchaser, moreover, must work out arrangements for NASA/DOD ground support. Commerce will, moreover, argue that LANDSAT-D is an R&D vehicle that a purchaser does not really want; the purchaser would fly a more tested and reliable system. Such a system does not exist and someone, then, must develop it, and more time and money would be required.

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4. In my view an Administration position not to procure the additional vehicle means the end of the program, and civil earth sensing will be left to the Canadians, Japanese, Russians, French, and a European consortium.

5. From a budgetary point of view, the Commerce view makes clear sense. There is no market to support the LANDSAT continuation, but this means, in my view, no market to support commercialization either.

6. The President's policy is stated as maintaining clear US supremacy in space. Ending the LANDSAT program will not enhance the world view of the US commitment to civil space much less the view of leadership. I find the lack of any mention of space leadership in the Commerce paper more than a little inconsistent with the Space Strategy paper position that offers a multi-billion dollar space station as a means to demonstrate to the world US leadership and technological superiority in space. It would appear that \$300 million is too much to spend on the objective, but that \$15 to \$30 billion is more reasonable. N.B. State representation does not support LANDSAT as a US prestige operation nor does the State representative consider the US effort to foster foreign ground stations and programs to use LANDSAT data as having established a continuing US obligation.

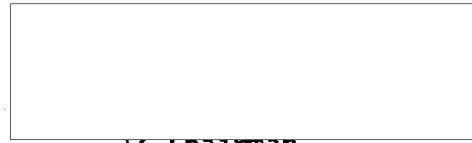
7. One reason for Commerce's desire to attain a strong Administration position is that there is purported intense Congressional desire to maintain the LANDSAT program. The US materials industry is said to be lobbying vigorously to further develop this desire with support from the aerospace industry.

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9. Recommendations are:

- o That you maintain a very critical view of the probability of successful commercialization.
- o That you recognize that LANDSAT is a relatively cheap device with which to display technological superiority and leadership in space and that ending the program will have an effect on foreign policy and perceptions of the US role in and commitment to space programs.

- o That you mildly support in principle continuation of the LANDSAT program without obligation of NFIB funding support.



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✓ Chairman

Attachment:
Issue Paper

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